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## Thailand

### Rice Price - Weekly

### Weekly Rice Price Update

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**Report Highlights:**

TH2015 Export prices increased approximately 1.0 percent due to concerns over the strengthening of the Thai baht and the temporary purchases of parboiled rice from African buyers. The National Rice Policy Committee has finalized the off-season crop Paddy Pledging Program and will keep intervention prices unchanged at 15,000 baht/MT (\$492/MT) which is around 45 percent above the current market prices. However, the amount of rice that can be pledged will be limited to a value of 500,000 baht/farm household (\$17,000) or 33.3 MT/household.



**Post:**  
Bangkok

**Author Defined:**  
**Market Tone**

**Table 1: Export Prices (FOB) for various grades of Thai rice (USD/MT), Week ending Feb. 14, 2012**

Quality	Exporter Observations							Period Average	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	1,045	-	1,060	-	1,100	990	-	1,049	1,034
WR 100 B	550	-	550	-	550	535	580	553	549
PB 100%	555	-	550		555	555	550	553	551
PB 5%	550	-	540	-	550	550	545	547	545
WR 5%	530	-	530	-	535	520	570	537	533
WR 10%	-	-	-	-	530	515	-	523	520
WR 15%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 25%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A1 SUP	520	-	-	-	510	510	-	513	517
A1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Exchange rate: 30.7 baht/U.S.\$

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters

Export prices increased approximately 1.0 percent from the previous week due to concerns over the strengthening of the Thai baht and enquiries for parboiled rice. Some quotations are overpriced to cushion current foreign exchange risk amid quiet enquiries for Thai white rice. Meanwhile, African buyers continue to purchase Thai parboiled rice to fulfill their temporary demand due to the delay of Indian shipments of parboiled rice caused by port congestion. In addition, there is a rumor that the Government is considering to barter intervention stocks with China in exchange for 500,000 units of tablet personal computers (PC) worth approximately \$50 million. The Tablet PC Program is a government policy aimed at providing every first-grade student with a tablet PC, which would total 900,000 units this year, as promised by the ruling Pheu Thai Party during its general election campaign.

Presently, the Government is holding old-crop intervention stocks of around 2.0 million tons. Meanwhile, the current Paddy Pledging Program has pledged a total of 6.3 million tons of paddy (4.2

million tons milled equivalent) from October 7, 2011 – February 12, 2012 (Table 2). This accounts for 29.2 percent of the expected total MY2011/12 main-crop production of 21-22 million tons of paddy (14.5 million tons milled equivalent). The Government expects the program will absorb only 7.0 million tons of paddy (4.6 million tons milled equivalent) when it finalizes on February 29, 2012, far below its initial target of 10.0 million tons of paddy. However, the Government will likely absorb an additional 5-6 million tons of paddy (4.0 million tons milled equivalent) from off-season crop Paddy Pledging Program during March 1 – June 30, 2012. The National Rice Policy Committee has finalized the off-season crop Paddy Pledging Program and will keep intervention prices unchanged at 15,000 baht/MT (\$492/MT) which is around 45 percent above the current market prices. Meanwhile, the amount of rice that can be pledged will be limited to a value of 500,000 baht/farm household (\$17,000), or 33.3 MT/household, as compared to the unlimited amount of paddy that can be pledged in the current main-crop Paddy Pledging Program.

<b>Table 2. MY2011/12 Main-Crop Paddy Pledging Program</b>							
<b>Unit: Metric Ton</b>							
<b>Region</b>	<b>Number of Farmer</b>	<b>Amount of Paddy</b>					
		<b>Fragrant Rice</b>			<b>White Rice</b>	<b>Glutinous Rice</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>Homali</b>	<b>Provincial</b>	<b>Pathumthani</b>			
<b>North</b>	313,249	305,903	265,627	2,790	1,377,082	212,417	2,164,819
<b>Northeast</b>	709,291	2,539,328	-	84	137,024	154,757	2,831,193
<b>Central</b>	150,867	-	64,668	12,324	1,235,628	-	1,312,620
<b>South</b>	1,105	-	-	-	5,213	-	5,213
<b>Total</b>	1,174,512	2,846,231	330,295	15,198	2,754,947	367,174	6,313,845
<b>Note: As of October 7, 2011 - February 12, 2012</b>							
<b>Source: Department of Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce</b>							

## Rice Export Update

Unofficial rice exports (excluding fragrant rice) for February 6-12, 2012 totaled 108,645 tons, up 34,743 tons from the previous week, and up 32,719 tons from the four-week moving average of 75,926 tons. Exports of white rice and parboiled rice during January 1 – February 12, 2012 totaled 470,192 tons, down 58.8 percent from 1,140,618 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during January 1 – February 7, 2012 amounted to 511,359 tons, down 55.2 percent from 1,141,599 tons in the previous year.

<b>Table 3: Weekly rice exports (excluding fragrant rice)</b>					
<b>WEEK ENDING</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>4-WK.AVG</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>YEAR AGO</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE AS % OF LAST YEAR</b>
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	(%)
Dec 4	81,073	80,093	8,032	5,961	34.7
Dec 11	56,254	73,840	8,088	6,113	32.3
Dec 18	67,397	70,889	8,155	6,303	29.4
Dec 25	77,227	70,488	8,233	6,475	27.1
Dec 31	57,810	64,672	8,291	6,649	24.7
Jan 1, 2012	1,100	-	1	2	-40.5
Jan 8	61,310	-	62	172	-63.6
Jan 15	104,079	-	166	381	-56.3
Jan 22	49,433	-	216	559	-61.4
Jan 29	71,723	71,636	288	723	-60.2
Feb 5	73,902	74,784	352	919	-61.7
Feb 12	108,645	75,926	470	1,141	-58.8

*Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/REEK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.*

Source: Board of Trade of Thailand

<b>Table 4: Weekly private registered rice export sales</b>			
<b>Movement (MT)</b>	<b>Jan 23-27 (Revised)</b>	<b>Jan 30 - Feb 3 (Revised)</b>	<b>Feb 6-10 (Preliminary)</b>
<b>Weekly sales</b>	56,967	66,346	N.A.
<b>4 week sum</b>	414,943	407,674	N.A.
<b>4 week mov. avg.</b>	103,736	101,919	N.A.
<b>Year-to-date sales</b>	414,943	481,289	N.A.

End of report